

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 121082
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 121082

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XX

SUBJECT: CSCE

PORTIONS OF FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE ON U.S. APPROACH TO
CSCE WERE USED BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN TODAY'S NOON
BRIEFING. ENTIRE GUIDANCE MAY BE DRAWN UPON BY POSTS AS
NECESSARY IN ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES.

Q: WHO IS HEADING THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE CSCE CON-
FERENCE IN BELGRADE?

A: THE WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED THAT ALBERT W.
SHERER, JR. WILL HEAD THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE PREPARA-
TORY MEETING IN BELGRADE, WHICH BEGINS ON JUNE 15. YOU
WILL RECALL THAT AMBASSADOR SHERER WAS ALSO HEAD OF THE
U.S. DELEGATION TO CSCE IN 1974 AND 1975. THE PRESIDENT
HAS NOT YET NAMED THE DELEGATION TO THE MAIN MEETING WHICH
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 121082

WILL TAKE PLACE AT A TIME TO BE DECIDED, PROBABLY IN
SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER.

ON BACKGROUND: THE MAIN MEETING IS LIKELY TO BE AT THE
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL, WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY
WARREN CHRISTOPHER HEADING THE U.S. DELEGATION. END

BACKGROUND

Q: THE NEW YORK TIMES QUOTES ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT, IN CONTRAST TO THE LOW PROFILE ADOPTED IN MEETINGS LEADING UP TO HELSINKI, THE U.S. WOULD PLAY A STRONG ROLE AT BELGRADE. IS THIS CORRECT?

A: CHARACTERIZATIONS OF "PROFILE" HAVE NEVER BEEN MADE BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. I CAN SAY, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE APPROACHING THE BELGRADE MEETING WITH UTMOST SERIOUSNESS. WE STRONGLY FAVOR THE APPROACH APPROVED AT THE NATO SUMMIT WHICH EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPLEMENTING ALL THE OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN TWO YEARS AGO IN HELSINKI. THEREFORE, IN EXAMINING THE RECORDS OF COMPLIANCE, WE WILL LOOK EQUALLY AT ALL THREE CSCE BASKETS.

OUR PURPOSE IN GOING TO BELGRADE IS NOT TO GAIN PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE OR TO WIN PUBLIC RELATIONS VICTORIES. OUR PURPOSE IS TO MAKE AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FINAL ACT. WE WILL NOT SHRINK FROM CITING THOSE AREAS WHERE OTHERS HAVE FAILED TO MEET THEIR COMMITMENTS. BUT WE WILL DO THIS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT AND WITH THE HOPE OF STIMULATING COOPERATION FOR ADDITIONAL GAINS IN THE FUTURE.

Q: HAS THE UNITED STATES REACHED CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 121082

A: THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN MONITORING THE COMPLIANCE RECORD OF ALL SIGNATORY COUNTRIES FOR SOME TIME NOW. IN THIS PROCESS, WE HAVE COMPARED THE DATA WE HAVE COMPILED WITH THAT OF OUR ALLIES AND OTHER PARTICIPATING NATIONS. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE CSCE COMMISSION AND HAS SOLICITED THE VIEWS OF THE CONGRESS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR REVIEW.

THE RECORD OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION IS MIXED, BUT HAS BEEN IMPROVING CONSIDERABLY OVERALL IN RECENT MONTHS.

YUGOSLAVIA HAS THE BEST RECORD. VIRTUALLY ALL YUGOSLAVS CAN LEAVE THE COUNTRY LEGALLY AND RETURN AT-WILL, AND THERE ARE NO CASES OF FAMILY MEMBERS BEING UNABLE TO LEAVE YUGOSLAVIA TO JOIN RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES. HUNGARY HAS ALSO APPLIED A GENERALLY POSITIVE SPIRIT TO ITS EMIGRATION PROCEDURES AND THE NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES IS SMALL. THE NUMBER OF

OUTSTANDING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS

ALSO RELATIVELY SMALL.

THE BULGARIAN RECORD HAS ALSO IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY. IN THE SPRING OF 1976, WE RECEIVED HIGH-LEVEL ASSURANCES FROM THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT THAT OUR PENDING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES WOULD BE RESOLVED AND, INDEED, A NUMBER OF LONG-STALLED CASES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.

THE RECORD IN OTHER COUNTRIES IS SOMEWHAT LESS FAVORABLE. DUE TO THE LARGE POLISH-AMERICAN POPULATION, THERE IS A CORRESPONDINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF DIVIDED FAMILY CASES IN POLAND. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THE POLISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN FAVORABLE ACTION ON A NUMBER OF URGENT HUMANITARIAN CASES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 121082

IN THE CASE OF ROMANIA, THE NUMBER OF PENDING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES HAS REMAINED AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME LEVEL IN RECENT MONTHS AND IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES HAS DROPPED SOMEWHAT FROM THE LEVEL OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN THE CASE OF THE SOVIET UNION, THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES IN RECENT YEARS (LAST YEAR THE NUMBER OF SOVIET EXIT VISAS FOR THE U.S. WAS 2,574, TEN TIMES THE NUMBER SIX YEARS AGO, AND DOUBLE THE TOTAL OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR). PROGRESS IN RESOLUTION OF LONG-STANDING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BE SLOW, WITH ABOUT 150 CASES INVOLVING SOME 300 INDIVIDUALS REQUIRING RESOLUTION.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US HOW MANY CASES HAVE BEEN SETTLED IN EACH COUNTRY?

A: I WOULD RATHER NOT GET INTO NUMBERS WHICH ARE SHIFTING CONSTANTLY AND SUBJECT TO VARYING AND SOMETIMES MISLEADING INTERPRETATIONS.

Q: IS THE UNITED STATES DISAPPOINTED WITH THE TREATMENT OF AMERICAN REPORTERS IN SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES?

A: THERE WAS SOME IMPROVEMENT FOLLOWING HELSINKI. THE SOVIET UNION -AT THAT TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, AGREED TO MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS, SOMETHING THAT WAS CALLED-- FOR IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. HOWEVER, THESE EARLY IMPROVEMENTS HAVE MORE RECENTLY BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY CONSIDERABLE HARASSMENT OF JOURNALISTS IN THE USSR. ONE

JOURNALIST, GEORGE KRIMSKY OF THE AP, WAS EXPELLED,
AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER, PETER OSNOS OF THE WASHINGTON
POST, RECEIVED A WARNING ON HIS WRITINGS. OTHERS HAVE

BEEN UNJUSTLY ACCUSED IN THE OFFICIAL SOVIET PRESS OF
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PAGE 05 STATE 121082

IMPROPER ACTIVITIES, HINDERING THEIR ABILITY AND RIGHT
TO OPERATE FREELY AND EFFECTIVELY. CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS
ALSO DETAINED AND HARASSED SEVERAL WORKING JOURNALISTS. VANCE

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